3.25 National and State Resource Centres will be established with mandates for collection and dissemination of information undertaking research work, conducting surveys, implementing training and awareness generation programmes, etc. These Centres will link up with Womens' Studies Centres and other research and academic institutions through suitable information networking systems.

3.26 Institutional mechanisms which exist at the Central and State levels. to promote the advancement of women, will be strengthened. These will be through interventions as may be appropriate and will relate to. among others, provision of adequate resources, staff training and advocacy skills to effectively influence macro-policies, legislations. programmes etc., to achieve the empowerment of women.

[Translation]

Dispute Over Irrigation Projects

2908. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the disputes among various States over some irrigation projects and also of the differences among various Departments of the Union Government;

(b) the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to monitor all the irrigation projects in the country?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b). There are disputes on different issues among participating States over some Irrigation Projects. The Union Government makes efforts to resolve these disputes through negotiations and meetings at different levels. There are no differences among various departments of the Union Government in respect of Irrigation projects.

(c) All on-going major irrigation projects and some selected medium irrigation projects are monitored by the Central Water Commission of the Union Ministry of Water Resources.

Passport Office in Jammu

2909. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a permanent passport office in Jammu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). A Passport Office was opened at Jammu in March, 1993 and has been functioning there since then. The possibility of opening an office in Srinagar will be examined soon. In the meantime, a Collection Centre is functioning in Srinagar.

Use of Water in Maharashtra

2910. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand to make the Nar-Par West flowing rivers east flowing in Maharashtra as their waters goes waste unused in Arabian sea;

(b) whether the famine-prone areas will be benefited at large scale after making these rivers east-flowing by construction of big dams on these two rivers;

(c) the details of the action being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if no action is being taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) No such proposal has been received in the Central Water Commission.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

[English]

Conversion of State Highway No.11

2911. SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from Members of Parliament regarding conversion of State Highway No.11 from Rohtak to Luthiana via Jind and Sangrur as a National Highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One representation in this regard has been received.

(c) Due to paucity of funds for the development of National Highway during the 8th Plan, it has not been possible to declare this road as a National Highway.

[Translation]

Inadequate Budget Allocations

2912. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether inadequate funds has been allotted for the Department of Defence in the Budget presented recently;

the basis of gender disaggregated

(b) whether the issue of huge expenditure incurred by the neighbouring countries on the Department of Defence is being ignored by the Government: and

(c) the steps likely to be taken by Government to equip the army with modernised aircrafts. weapons etc.. to meet the security thereof by neighbouring countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) The requirement of funds is projected by the Ministry of Defence to the Ministry of Finance, which decides on the actual allocation for the year. keeping in view the overall availability of national resources. national security and the requirements of different sectors. Ministry of Defence had projected a requirement of Rs.31925.61 crores for Defence allocation for the year 1996-97 against which the allocation presented by the Finance Minister in the Budget 1996-97 provides Rs.27819 crores for Defence.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Having regard to the developments in the neighbouring countries. all efforts are being made to equip the Army with the required equipment and weapon systems to meet our security concerns.

[English]

Laws for the Use of Basin River Water

2913. SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a law prohibiting the use of water of one river basin in a neighbouring river basin;

(b) if so. whether the Government propose to amend the Act to facilitate diversion of water to help the drought prone areas to fill in water in their tanks; and

(c) if so. the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Medical Colleges

2914. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to a study conducted by the AIIMS. majority of the country's medical colleges are imparting sub-standard medical training:

(b) if so. the details thereof: and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Such a study conducted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has come to notice of the Government.

(b) The methodology adopted and conclusions arrived are yet to be evaluated by the Medical Council of India;

(c) Medical Council of India conducts periodical inspection of medical colleges to assess the standards of medical education imported. Under the Indian Medical Council Act. 1956 as amended prior permission of Central Government is required for opening a new college, increase of seats and opening higher courses of study.

Four Lane N.H. in Kerala

2915. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Edappally-Kanyakumari four lane Highway will be completed in the stipulated time;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to have such a four lane Highway in the Northern part of Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the project of Kanyakumari-Bombay Highway will be taken up in the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). Edappaly to Shertalai of NH 47 is being four laned, for which the target date of completion of 14-9-97, has been revised to 14-7-1998, due to unprecedented rains and extended monsoon.

(c) to (f). Due to pacuity of funds and considering inter-se priority of four laning of National Highways in the country. no other proposal for four laning has been considered in Kerala State.

Bridge on N.H.-8 in Gujarat

2916. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problem faced by the traffic due to a bottleneck at Watrak Bridge near Kheda on N.H.-8 in Gujarat;

(b) whether there is a provision of construction of new bridge to remove this bottleneck;

(c) if so. the details thereof and in which development plan it was included; and

(d) the present status of the case?